



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

INSIDE

Features

Watershed leaders
applaud GRCA record

75th Anniversary

Acclaim raised
awareness 2

Milestones

Celebrating 20 years
of tailwater fishery 4

Grand ranks two
top fishing spots 4

Friends of Mill Creek
celebrate 10 years 5

What's Happening

Water Forum to focus
on Grand-Erie links 6

Half way through
a Grand year 6

Rotary gift supports
Snyder's Flats project 7

Now available

Brochure highlights
top birding trails 8

Calendar 8



Ontario Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield poses with current and former chairs and top staff members of the GRCA. They are: Alan Dale (left), present chair ; Peter Krause, chair, 1998-2006 ; James Bauer, chair, 1966-1990 ; Mac Coutts, general manager, 1953-1992 ; Alan Holmes, CAO, 1991-2000 ; and Paul Emerson, present CAO.

Watershed leaders applaud GRCA's 75-year record

By Michael-Allan Marion
Brantford Expositor

Grand River Conservation Authority officials basked in the glow of accolades during a ceremony in Brantford on May 28 marking the 75th anniversary of the agency's founding in 1934.

With a panoramic view of the heritage river and its green watershed shimmering in a misty rain outside the large windows of the Brantford Golf and Country Club, a succession of dignitaries lauded the organization.

They said the GRCA has done much to turn an "open sewer" into a vibrant stream re-enriched with marine life, supported by a resurgent ecosystem and a system of conservation areas and protected lands.

They had come to mark the occasion in Brantford, the site of the first meeting in May 1934 of the agency's

forerunner: the Grand River Conservation Commission — a gathering of officials from all over the Grand Valley to form an organization that would co-operate with municipalities to manage the watershed.

It later became the model for a system of conservation authorities established by the Ontario government in 1946 to manage watersheds across the province.

"Your history is really a history of firsts," Natural Resources Minister Donna Cansfield told a gathering of about 100 authority board mem-

bers, staff and dignitaries from the full length of the Grand River watershed.

She rhymed off a history of "firsts" over the years, from writing the first fisheries management plan to pioneering computerized monitoring and information-gathering programs that were later emulated or copied by other authorities.

"The GRCA really has been a



model for other agencies,” said Cansfield. “My ministry can’t do its work without you.”

Sometimes the ministry and the authority have differences in approach, “but our goal is the same,” she said. “We can and we must protect this good earth.”

Brant County Mayor Ron Eddy said he has noticed “tremendous improvements” in the health of the watershed from the authority’s work over more than several decades.

“We have a much more verdant valley,” he said, noting there are far more fish in cleaner streams again, more bird life, and thousands of reforested acres.

“We’re getting closer to the original valley,” said Eddy.

Change in attitude

But the biggest change, he said, has been in the attitude of people who live in communities along the Grand and the wider watershed.

“They love the river again. People used to say, ‘Stay away from the river.’ Now they feel the valley is theirs to protect.”

Brantford Mayor Mike Hancock praised the authority’s ability to manage reliably the Grand’s water supply through a system of dams and reservoirs, and programs that have made the stream cleaner.

Those are important to Brantford, he said, because the city takes all its drinking water from the river.

“There is nothing more important to a city than its water supply,” he said. A municipality can cope with other emergencies like power failures and devastating storms, “but a lack of water will shut down a city quickly.”

Sometimes there has been some “turbulence” in relations, he said, referring obliquely to the city’s current concern over sewage spills and discharges into the Grand by upstream municipalities. But generally the relationship has been rewarding.

“The Grand has gone from being an

open sewer to a healthy stream,” GRCA chairman Alan Dale told the gathering, in a presentation in which he also recounted the creation of the Belwood nursery and the organization’s ability to plant millions of trees throughout the territory.

Vic Prendergast, a board member

from Brantford and second vice-chairman, said a main ingredient in the GRCA’s success is maintaining and enhancing a good partnership role with member municipalities.

Reprinted with permission of The Brantford Expositor.



The designation of the Grand River system as a Canadian Heritage River 15 years ago was marked with a ceremony in Cambridge.

National, international attention raised awareness of watershed improvements

This is part of a series of articles about the history of the GRCA and its many programs. These are being featured in Grand Actions during 2009 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the GRCA’s founding organization.

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Sixty years after the 1934 founding of the Grand River Conservation Commission, there were still a lot of people in the watershed with a low opinion of the Grand River.



75th ANNIVERSARY

But attitudes changed in the 1990s when the river started to be noticed on national and international stages.

The breakthrough came in 1994, when the Grand River system was designated as a Canadian Heritage River. It had taken five years to collect the information to support the designation, so it was a big achievement.



The GRCA's Rural Water Quality Program, which promotes fence building along streams, has been recognized by the Foundation for Rural Living.

It was even more notable that the Grand was the first Canadian river in a heavily populated area to be nominated for heritage status. Most of the other heritage rivers were in remote, pristine environments.

Impressions changed

The designation changed the popular impression of the Grand. People who thought of the river as a dirty, smelly place to avoid started to look at it in a new way, said Barb Veale, co-ordinator of policy, planning and partnerships with the GRCA.

"This designation made people understand that the water quality and recreational opportunities had dramatically improved," said Veale. Recreational groups, municipalities and organizations were bolstered by the designation and stepped up the flurry of river improvements that were already underway.

By 1998, the Grand became Ontario's first watershed to have a fisheries management plan, thanks to a partnership of community and fishing organizations called the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan Implementation Committee. This has led to improved fishing and river access. In fact, this May the committee received the

Recreational Fisheries Award from the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

"Not all watersheds in Canada can do this, because the trust and willingness to work together is not always as well understood. We are fortunate to have built these partnerships over many years. That is the future," said Warren Yerex, supervisor of aquatic resources.

Another innovative GRCA program started in 1998 — the Rural Water Quality Program. It provides financial support and advice to farmers undertaking projects to protect water quality. They put up fences to keep livestock out of the rivers, plant vegetation and trees near waterways and construct manure storage facilities. In 2006, the program received an award for outstanding partnership with business from the Foundation for Rural Living, a provincial organization.

In May 2000, the GRCA submitted an application for a new international award and that fall it became just the second winner of the prestigious International Thies Riverprize, which is awarded by the International Riverfoundation in Brisbane, Australia.

The GRCA received the award on behalf of itself and its municipal partners. The Grand is the only Canadian

river to have received this recognition.

"Ours is a story of the recovery of the Grand River from years of degradation and industrialization and how we are working together to keep it healthy for future generations," the Riverprize nomination said.

The Riverprize came with \$100,000 Australian dollars in prize money. Now that money supports the Community Conservation Grant program which provides grants to community and school groups for environmental projects.

Winning the award also led to a greater international role for the GRCA in provincial, national and international circles.

The GRCA won the prize the same year seven people died in Walkerton after drinking contaminated water. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who headed up the Walkerton Inquiry, heard about the GRCA's International Riverprize and asked the GRCA to participate in the hearings.

"The Grand River Conservation Authority has received global recognition for its efforts in watershed planning, and I suggest that its model, combined with the model provided in the 1993 watershed planning framework, may be a good starting point" for source protection planning, O'Connor said in Part 2 of the Walkerton Report.

The International Riverfoundation also funded a twinning program between the GRCA and the San Roque watershed in Argentina. Regular exchange visits have paid dividends for both sides of the arrangement.

"You have played a unique role as a catalyst, facilitator, technical advisor and honest broker," Andrew Hamilton Joseph of Los Algarrobos told the GRCA board when he visited in April. "We have used your credibility as an internationally recognized watershed management expert to impress upon our communities and our decision makers the need to work together to improve our watersheds."

Celebrating 20 years of the tailwater fishery

By Ken Cornelisse
Ministry of Natural Resources

An innovative program that has made the Grand River one of the best trout fishing rivers in Ontario recently celebrated its 20th anniversary.

On May 12, representatives of the organizations that have managed the brown trout stocking program got together at Belwood Lake Conservation Area to mark the anniversary.

Representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, GRCA, Friends of the Grand and Trout Unlimited Canada came together at the Belwood Lake Conservation Area. As part of the event, they helped put several buckets full of brown trout into the Grand.

Each year, the MNR provides about 24,000 brown trout from the provincial hatcheries for stocking the Grand River tailwater fishery. The fishery extends from the Shand Dam at Lake Belwood, through the communities of Fergus and Elora, to the Highway 86 bridge at West Montrose, a distance of about 28 km.

The Shand Dam was completed in 1942 to help protect against downstream flooding. Water stored in the reservoir is released gradually during the warm months to maintain flows in the river. The area downstream of the dam is known as the “tailwater.”

The deeper waters of the reservoir remain cool, even during the heat of summer. The addition of the cool water to the river creates a habitat suitable for brown trout.

The original team of enthusiasts that pursued the creation of the tailwater fishery included Jack Imhof and Larry Halyk of the ministry, Warren Yerex of the GRCA and the late Walt Crawford of Trout Unlimited. Later, the volunteer group Friends of the Grand was formed and its members have been helping to stock the fish annually along with the



MILESTONES

GRCA, Trout Unlimited, Hamilton Area Fly Fishers and Tyers, KW Flyfishers, and Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club.

The real benefit of the program is how it has raised the profile of the river within the community, resulting in improvements to water quality, and the protection of the river and its ecosystem. “People are more interested in protecting the river when they have an interest in it,” said Ian Hagman, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Over the past 20 years, more than 500,000 fish have been stocked in the river and the resulting fishery, in combination with the picturesque surrounding, has received international recognition as a “world class fishery.” In addition, an economic study has estimated that the fishery has generated a million dollar benefit to the local economy.

Magazine ranks Grand, Whiteman’s as top fishing spots

Local anglers only need to go as far as the Grand River to experience the best fly fishing in the province.

The February-April 2009 issue of Canadian Fly Fisher Magazine gives the Grand River the top spot in an article called Ontario’s Top Ten do-it-yourself fly fishing destinations. Whiteman’s Creek is in the second spot.

The magazine article says “no official Ontario Top 10 list would be complete without the Grand River — a true blue-ribbon tailwater fishery.”

“Watershed protection and restoration efforts have created a superb habitat with plenty of eight to 16 inch brown trout and specimens as large as 26 inch-



Art Timmerman of the Ministry of Natural Resources moves fish into a truck transfer tank

es or bigger,” it continued.

The article touts the variety of fish species in the Grand River, including rainbow trout, a few warm water fish and steelhead in Caledonia.

Whiteman’s Creek, which enters the Grand River between Paris and Brantford, “is a more intimate, less fished tributary of the Grand River which flows cold enough to support native brown, rainbow and migratory steelhead,” the article says.

The Grand River and Whiteman’s Creek beat out Algonquin Park which was third, followed by Forks of the Credit, Sault St. Marie, the Niagara River, Maitland River, Aurora Trout Lakes, Big Head River and the Ottawa-Rideau River.

The decision about the top ten was

based on accessibility, the quality of the fishery and access to accommodation, fishing information and sustainability, said Nick Pujic, the managing editor of the magazine. He says there are many groups maintaining the Grand River and it is one of the only fisheries that is improving in quality.

"This is testament to the incredible work that has been done on these rivers over many years," said Alan Dale, chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority. "It's yet another sign that the dedication of the Grand River Fisheries Implementation Committee has really paid off."

The committee is co-chaired by the GRCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources. It created Ontario's first watershed-wide fisheries management plan in 1998 thanks to input and dedication of a dozen community groups. Earlier in May, the committee members went to Parliament Hill to receive a National Recreational Fisheries Award.

"Sometimes it takes national recognition, such as the fisheries award and the top two spots in a national publication, for people to realize how successful these efforts have been," Dale said. "When we live here, we lose sight of these successes, especially when the population and the demands on the local rivers keep growing."

Friends of Mill Creek mark decade of improvement

Friends of Mill Creek are celebrating 10 successful years that have seen people who could be adversaries set aside their differences in order to work together for the benefit of Mill Creek.

The group will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Thursday, Aug. 13 at Shades' Mills Conservation Area. The event will include demonstrations of benthic sampling, to check the health of the watercourse based on the bugs that live there, and electro-fishing at 3:30 p.m. followed by a barbeque and presentations.

"This project has so many facets to it that it has many benefits to the environment. It is pretty exciting," said Brad Whitcombe, Mayor of Puslinch Township. He was instrumental in forming this group and continues to help it succeed.

Landowners, politicians, young people, local industrialists and environmentalists have all volunteered their time and effort for the benefit of this spring-fed cold water stream that runs through Puslinch Township and the City of Cambridge where it joins the Grand River.

Even though the committee members may, to an outsider, appear to have conflicting interests, they have been able to work together for the benefit of the creek.

"This program has been incredibly successful and it is a model for other communities to follow," says Warren Yerex, aquatics supervisor with the GRCA.

There are many factors that have led the natural areas near the stream to deteriorate over the years, since the community has developed quickly and the creek hasn't recovered from construction of Highway 401 in the 1960s.

Despite these challenges, Mill Creek has many positive environmental features that are being brought back to life by the commitment of people.

"The concerned community is really pulling together," says Robert Messier, who works with landowners and the group members and continues to be impressed with the energy that people put into environmental improvements.

Since 1998, many landowners have worked to improve the water quality of the creek by fencing off the livestock so they can't get near the river, planting trees and putting in vegetation along the streambanks.

Each summer since 2003, local 17-year-olds have been hired as Mill Creek Rangers to undertake stream rehabilitation projects along the creek, often on private land.

"It has been a great benefit not only to the stream, but also to the young people. For many, it is their first opportunity to get environmental experience and this likely influences their career choice," Whitcombe says.

Teens are paid through financial donations from the community. It is donors who have really jumped on board from the local community to ensure that this program happens each year.



Students prepare a new channel for Mill Creek as part of the restoration work led by the Friends of Mill Creek.

Water Forum to focus on link between Grand and Lake Erie

The link between the Great Lakes and the rivers that flow into them will be the subject of presentations at the Ninth Annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum on Sept. 18 in Cambridge.

“Great Lakes ~ Great Links: A Grand Connection” will allow for an exchange of ideas about the relationship between the Great Lakes and their tributaries.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The morning program will focus on the issues facing the Great Lakes and their impact on the watershed. The afternoon session will focus on the watershed

response to the Great Lakes concerns and innovative solutions.

The annual event, which attracts about 400 participants, takes place at the head office of the Grand River Conservation Authority, 400 Clyde Rd. Cambridge from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration for the event is open to the public. Details about the program, speakers and registration (including an online registration process) can be found in the Water Forum section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca

The registration fee of \$100, or \$55 for students and seniors, includes lunch.

Keynote speakers include:

- **Peter Annin**, a veteran conflict and environmental journalist who published his first book, *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, in 2006. This has been called the definitive work on the Great Lakes water diversion controversy.

- **Jim Vollmershasen**, Environment Canada's senior manager in Ontario and co-chair of the Great Lakes Bi-national Executive Committee, who will speak about setting priorities to restore and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem.

- **Dr. Gail Krantzberg**, a professor and director at the McMaster Centre for Engineering and Public Policy.

- **Dr. Bruce Mitchell**, associate provost at the University of Waterloo, who researches policy and governance aspects of water management

- **Dwight Boyd**, Sandra Cooke and Warren Yerex, senior GRCA staff members will speak about the Grand-Erie Connection.

- **Paul Emerson**, CAO of the GRCA who will present his annual Watershed Report on the Grand River watershed

- **Gord Miller**, environmental commissioner of Ontario, will provide a wrap-up of the day's presentations.

Moderator for the morning session will be Mike Farwell, managing editor of News 570 radio station. Afternoon moderator is Lynn Haddrall, editor-in-chief of the Waterloo Region Record.



Mathew McCarthy's photo for the Waterloo Region Record shows Tim Kuntz, (left) and Nikki Thackeray of the GRCA taking water quality measurements.

Halfway through a Grand year

By David Bebee
Waterloo Region Record

Having spent six months working on this daily photo blog “A Year on the Grand,” I have an even greater appreciation for the Grand River and its stewards.

Making almost daily trips down to the water has given me so much more of an education about the flora and fauna that populate the banks and waters. I am also amazed at how much the river can change in a 24 hour period. A couple of examples of the ever changing ecosystem are the

formation of ice during a cold snap to the opening of fiddle heads into ferns.

The contrasts of winter to the gentler season of spring have amazed me as well. The water becomes so powerful after freezing that it knocked down large trees which were then pushed down stream. Yet after the spring thaw in some places it couldn't be gentler.

I am also impressed with the passionate readers and grand enthusiasts who have written to us or I have talked to on trails or at the river's edge. There are a lot of concerned people and strong supporters of the Grand River in this watershed.

Check out the *Year on the Grand* photoblog online by David Bebee and Mathew McCarthy at www.therecord.blogs.com/a_year_on_the_grand.

Rotary gift supports Snyder's Flats project

By Marc Miquel Helsen
Woolwich Observer

In the 1980s it was a gravel pit. Now, more than 20 years later, the 200-odd acres of land at the end of Snyder's Flats Road in Bloomingdale form part of a diverse natural landscape that serves as a publicly-accessible natural space.

The Grand River Conservation Authority, which owns the Snyder's Flats Rotary Forest, officially launched the opening of the park on May 29.

Representatives of the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club presented the Grand River Conservation Foundation a cheque for \$182,000, part of the proceeds of the club's 2008 Dream Home lottery.

The money will be used to plant 56,000 native trees and shrubs to restore forests and grasslands, build the Rotary Walk trail and install interpretive signage. Additional support for the Rotary Forest was provided by the Good Foundation Inc., in memory of Milton R. Good, and the Trees Ontario Foundation.

The 240-acre property is nestled in a bend in the Grand River, which flanks the property on the north, west and southern sides.

Gravel was extracted between 1979 and 1987. The agreement between the aggregate company – which owned property adjacent to the lot and which exploited the GRCA land – and the conservation authority contained rigorous guidelines and regulations for a rehabilitation process that began even while aggregate was being removed.

A lengthy process, the rehabilitation extended over two phases, the first of which began simultaneous to the extraction: as gravel was drawn, topsoil ripped from new cells was placed on top of graded areas in which extraction was already completed. That allowed for rehabilitation to begin even as work continued.

The second phase, which occurred



Participating in the ribbon cutting at the launch of the Snyder's Flats Rotary Forest project were Mike Klein, chair of the 2008 Rotary Dream Home Lottery (left); David Hales, president of the Grand River Conservation Foundation; Ian Murdoch, member of the foundation board and the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club; and Tony Denison, President of the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club.

when the final grades had been achieved, saw a "fair bit of tree planting at that time, especially around the north pond" explained Martin Neumann, supervisor of terrestrial resources for the GRCA.

"Most of the restoration or rehabilitation was the shaping of the terrestrial and aquatic components of the landscape. A fair bit of tree planting around the north pond," he said. The plot of land now holds two ponds and a floodplain pool.

Some bio-engineering work was conducted around the outlet to the floodplain pool and then the Rotary Forest initiative kicked off this spring, forming part of a more intensive habitat restoration initiative.

The work is far from done, however.

Not surprisingly, some of the plant life that took root at the former pit did so uninvited. Now, the GRCA is looking to deal with those invasive species.

"Some of the things coming in naturally are not native plants and in fact some of them, if left to their own devices, might take the place over, so, we want to make sure that we're favouring the native species in our restoration

and our plant management."

Some of the plants causing concern are the European buckthorn, Manitoba maple and garlic mustard.

"These three species are three of the biggest problems in terms of invasive exotic species that we have regionally, and the Manitoba maple and garlic mustard are especially prevalent in floodplain areas," said Neumann.

As the plants and trees flourish, so too will the wild animals that make the locale their home. While the area is perhaps too small to attract rare endangered species, it already is home to several native species including osprey, deer, foxes, coyotes, woodchucks, beaver, muskrats, snapping and painted turtles and several fish.

The oxbow floodplain pool is connected to the river and during flood conditions water flows over the property – at least two of the three ponds are connected to the river in flood conditions – the source of the area's aquatic species, said Neumann, noting that none of the current animal inhabitants were introduced by GRCA.

Reprinted with permission of The Woolwich Observer.



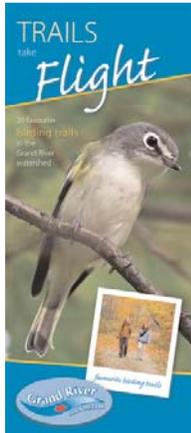
NOW AVAILABLE

New brochure and website highlight top birding trails

The Grand River watershed has an amazing variety of hiking and cycling trails, used by thousands of residents and visitors in all four seasons.

Avid birders know that these trails are also great places to discover the more than 290 species of birds that either nest along the Grand or pass through during spring and fall migration.

To help novice hikers and birders discover the trails this summer, the Grand River Country tourism alliance has just com-



pleted its exciting "Trails Take Flight" brochure and accompanying website. They will introduce you to 20 of the best birding trails in the Grand River Watershed.

Information on the trails and bird species to be seen were scouted by the Guelph Field Naturalists, and the website was developed with a grant from the

Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion.

The website features interactive trail maps, and includes descriptive text and photos about each trail and the birds you may find there.

To discover your favourite birding trails this summer, check them out online at www.grandrivercountry.com/trails



The Grand Calendar

10th Anniversary Celebration for Friends of Mill Creek, Thursday Aug. 13 at Shades' Mills Conservation Area, 3:30 p.m. This event includes demonstrations of benthic sampling, to check the health of the watercourse based on the bugs that live there, and electro-fishing at 3:30 p.m. followed by a barbeque and presentations. See story page 5.

Family hike, Rockwood Conservation Area, Rockwood, Saturday, Sept. 12, 9:45 a.m. Meet at the food concession shelter at 9:45 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. start. The program is free with park admission.

Great Lakes ~ Great Links: A Grand Connection, the 9th Annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum, GRCA, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge, Friday, Sept. 18th, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year's forum will explore the impact of the Great Lakes on watersheds and how innovation and change can positively affect watershed health in the Grand River watershed. See story page 6.

Doors Open Waterloo, Laurel Creek Nature Centre, Saturday, Sept. 19. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided hikes and programs for kids in conjunction with the annual Doors Open Waterloo event. This was the GRCA's first purpose-built nature centre and it received a green roof in 2008. It achieved silver ranking in the provincial Eco-Schools program. Over 15,000 students and members of the public participate annually in the centre's environmental education programs. For a complete listing of free events, visit www.region.waterloo.on.ca/doorsopen or call 519-747-5139.

Best of the Grand hike, Brantford-Paris Loop, 10 a.m. , Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m. Meet on the east side of the Grand River at the end of Powerline Road, Brantford for a 10:00 a.m. start. This loop hike includes the scenic Grand Valley Trail (GVT) and parts of the SC Johnson Rail Trail.

The Grand River Biothon, Pinehurst Conservation Area, Sept 21 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Over 24 hours, teams search to discover and record as many different living things as possible to raise money to support outdoor education. Sunday features the public portion of this event, with many family activities. Funds are for environmental programs at the nature centres. People can sponsor the biothon, come during the public participation time or join a team. For more information contact Apps Mill Nature Centre, at 519-752-0655.

Note: A complete listing of events in the GRCA's conservation areas and nature centres is available on www.grandriver.ca in the Calendar section. This includes events planned for the GRCA's 75th anniversary.

About Grand Actions

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the Grand River Conservation Authority. Current and back issues are available online at: www.grandriver.ca.

For newsletter submissions and e-mail or post subscriptions, contact:

Janet Baine, GRCA

Phone: 519-621-2763, Ext. 2302

E-mail: jbaine@grandriver.ca

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome.

This publication is printed on Rolland Enviro100, an FSC certified, environmentally-friendly paper. The paper is manufactured using 100% post-consumer fibre and is processed chlorine-free using biogas energy.



100%

REGISTRATION

To register, please fill out the registration form and mail to:

Grand River Conservation Authority, c/o Sonia Morgan
400 Clyde Road, Box 729
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2315, Fax: 519-621-4844 or
E-mail: waterforum@grandriver.ca

You can also register on-line at
www.grandriver.ca/waterforum

Please register by September 11, 2009.

Registration fee:
\$100 + \$5 GST
Student/Senior:
\$55 + \$2.75 GST

NAME

JOB TITLE

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CREDIT CARD: VISA MASTERCARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

NAME ON CARD (if different from above)

Please make cheques payable to the Grand River Conservation Authority and complete a separate registration form for each person attending.

The Water Forum will be held outdoors under a "grand" marquee on the grounds of the GRCA Administration Centre. **Please dress accordingly.** Lunch is included in the registration and will accommodate vegetarian diets.

HOSTED BY: Municipal Water Managers Working Group
ORGANIZING PARTNERS: Grand River Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Foundation, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Ontario Centres of Excellence - Earth & Environment Technologies, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, City of Guelph, City of Cambridge, MTE Consultants Inc., Six Nations EcoCentre, Trout Unlimited Canada

Morning Program

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. *Registration & Coffee*
- 8:00 - 2:00 p.m. **Interactive Exhibits & Displays**
- Moderator Mike Farwell, Afternoon News Anchor & Managing Editor, News 570
- 8:30 - 8:40 a.m. **Waterlife** – Award-winning Great Lakes documentary
- 8:40 - 8:50 a.m. **Welcome and Greetings**
- 8:50 - 9:10 a.m. **Hon. Gary Goodyear, Canadian Minister of State (Science & Technology)** (invited)
- 9:10 - 9:40 a.m. **The Great Lakes Water Wars** – Keynote Speaker – Peter Annin, Journalist & Author
- 9:40 - 10:00 a.m. **State of the Great Lakes** – Jim Vollmershausen, Regional Director General, Ontario Region, Environment Canada
- 10:00 - 10:10 a.m. **Questions & Answers**
- 10:10 - 10:40 a.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 10:40 - 11:00 a.m. **Great Lakes - Great Responsibilities** – Dr. Gail Krantzberg, Professor and Director, McMaster Centre for Engineering and Public Policy
- 11:00 - 11:20 a.m. **Implementation Failure is Like Original Sin** – Dr. Bruce Mitchell, Professor of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo
- 11:20 - 11:35 a.m. **Questions & Answers**
- 11:40 - 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon ~ Networking ~ Interactive Exhibits**

Afternoon Program

- Moderator Lynn Haddrall, Editor-In-Chief, The Record
- 1:00 - 1:25 p.m. **Hon. John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of the Environment** (invited)
- 1:25 - 1:40 p.m. **7th Annual State of the Watershed Report** – Paul Emerson, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority
- 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. **Exploring Grand-Erie Connections: Flow, Quality & Ecology** – Grand River Conservation Authority & Partners:
 - Dwight Boyd, Senior Water Resources Engineer
 - Sandra Cooke, Senior Water Quality Supervisor
 - Warren Yerex, Supervisor, Aquatic Resources
- 2:40 - 3:00 p.m. **Questions & Answers**
- 3:00 - 3:25 p.m. **Wrapping It All Up**– Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- 3:25 - 3:30 p.m. **Closing**

www.grandriver.ca/waterforum



9th ANNUAL

GRAND RIVER WATERSHED WATER FORUM

Great Lakes ~ Great Links:

A *Grand*
Connection

Friday, September 18, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario
www.grandriver.ca/waterforum



9th ANNUAL

GRAND RIVER WATERSHED

WATER FORUM

The Grand River Watershed Water Forum has become a premiere gathering of experts on key water issues, growth trends, emerging technologies and innovative solutions.

Great Lakes ~ Great Links: A Grand Connection will allow for an exchange of ideas regarding the relationship between the Great Lakes and the connecting watersheds. The morning program will focus on the issues facing the Great Lakes and their impact on the watersheds. The afternoon session will focus on the watershed response to Great Lakes' concerns and finding creative solutions.

Keynote Speakers

Peter Annin,
Author & Journalist



A veteran conflict and environmental journalist, Peter Annin spent more than a decade reporting on a wide variety of issues for Newsweek. He specialized in coverage of domestic terrorism and the radical right, including the bombing in Oklahoma City. He has also spent many years writing about the environment, including droughts in the Southwest, hurricanes in the Southeast, and recovery efforts on the Great Lakes.

In September, 2006 Peter published his first book, *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, which has been called the definitive work on the Great Lakes water diversion controversy. In 2007 the book received the Great Lakes Book Award for nonfiction.

Jim Vollmershausen,
*Regional Director General,
Ontario Region, Environment Canada*



Since 2008, Jim Vollmershausen has been Environment Canada's senior manager in Ontario. He is Canadian co-chair of the Great Lakes Bi-national Executive Committee, setting priorities to restore and maintain the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. Jim is also Chair of the Great Lakes Executive Committee, providing leadership to eight federal departments with mandates in the Great Lakes; and Co-Chair of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Management Committee which makes decisions on joint federal-provincial activities in the Great Lakes. In addition, Jim is the Canadian Co-Chair of the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

Dr. Gail Krantzberg,
*Professor and Director, McMaster
Centre for Engineering
and Public Policy*



Originally from Montreal, Gail Krantzberg acquired a bachelor's degree from McGill University, then her Masters and Ph.D. in aquatic ecotoxicology from the University of Toronto. From 1988-2001 she worked for the Ontario government as a Sediment Specialist, Coordinator of the Collingwood Harbour Remedial Action Plan, Coordinator of Great Lakes Programs, and Senior Policy Analyst on Great Lakes. She then became Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office, International Joint Commission prior to joining the teaching staff at McMaster University.

Dr. Bruce Mitchell,
*Professor of Geography and Environmental
Management, University of Waterloo*

Bruce Mitchell is well respected throughout the water community. In addition to his teaching role at the University of Waterloo, he is Associate Provost, Academic and Student Affairs. Bruce's research focuses on policy and governance aspects of water management, with particular attention to the concept of 'integrated water resource management'. He has conducted research in Australia, China, Indonesia and Nigeria, as well as in Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the International Water Resources Association, and a Past President of the Canadian Water Resources Association.



Grand-Erie Connections
Grand River Conservation Authority & Partners

The health of the Great Lakes is dependent on the health of the rivers flowing into them. River health is influenced by a complex mix of interactions among human activities on the land and their demands on natural resources, biophysical conditions in the watershed, and the strategies used to manage these connections. The presentations will examine how the hydrology, water quality and ecology of the Grand combine to influence Lake Erie health and explore future management options for sustaining and improving river and lake health.

Gord Miller,
*Environmental Commissioner
of Ontario*



The Water Forum would not be complete without Gord Miller adding his own unique observations in summarizing the day's discussions. Gord has served as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario since 2000 and oversees the implementation of the Environmental Bill of Rights.